

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND)	
COMPANY,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	C.A. No. 07-346 SLR
v.)	
)	
MECHANICAL INTEGRITY, INC.,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

JOINT STIPULATION AND ORDER TO TRANSFER

The parties hereto, by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby stipulate and agree, subject to the approval of the Court, to the transfer of the above-captioned case from this Court to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky (Louisville Division), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). The grounds upon which the proposed transfer of this case are based are as follows:

1. This is an action for breach of contract, misrepresentation and fraud which was brought by plaintiff E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company ("DuPont") against defendant Mechanical Integrity, Inc. ("MI") arising from a pipeline inspection performed at DuPont's Louisville, Kentucky plant. (D.I. 1) MI filed a third party complaint against NDT Equipment Services LTD ("NDT") and Mike Walker ("Walker") on October 19, 2007, alleging that NDT and Walker were subcontracted to perform the inspection. (D.I. 20) Walker has been voluntarily dismissed from the third party action and NDT has moved to dismiss the third party complaint on grounds that this Court lacks personal jurisdiction over it. (D.I. 28)

2. Section 1404(a) provides that, "For the convenience of parties and witnesses, in the interest of justice, a district court may transfer any civil action to any other district or division

where it might have been brought.” 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a). Section 1404(a) is designed “to avoid the waste of time, energy, and money to protect litigants, witnesses, and the public against unnecessary inconvenience and expense.” *Van Dusen v. Barrack*, 376 U.S. 612, 616 (1964)(internal citations omitted). The parties seek the transfer of this action to the U. S. District Court that will be able to exercise personal jurisdiction over all parties, and potential parties, that are necessary to the resolution of this case.

3. This case may be transferred to the Western District of Kentucky because it could have originally been brought there. The Western District of Kentucky (1) can exercise diversity subject matter jurisdiction over the dispute; (2) can exercise personal jurisdiction over all the parties and potential parties; and (3) would be a proper venue as the district in which the pipeline inspection occurred. *See Affymetrix, Inc. v. Synteni, Inc.*, 28 F. Supp.2d 192, 196 (D. Del. 1998).

4. Moreover, the balance of convenience and interests of justice strongly favor transfer. The events which led to this lawsuit occurred in Kentucky, and all relevant records and many of plaintiff's witnesses are located in Kentucky. Most importantly, however, Walker and NDT may only be available for service of process in Kentucky. *See Affymetrix*, 28 F. Supp. 2d at 203 (“[T]he location of potential witnesses, and, thus, their ability to be subject to compulsory process has weighed heavily in the ‘balance of convenience’ analysis”)(citations omitted).

5. Another important public interest factor to be considered is the efficient use of judicial resources. *See Kirschner Brothers Oil, Inc. v. Pannill*, 697 F. Supp. 804, 808 (D. Del. 1988). The Western District of Kentucky also has a significantly greater interest in the outcome of this litigation because the underlying inspection of the Plant occurred there. Finally, transfer to the Western District of Kentucky would promote a more efficient use of judicial resources. Failure to transfer the case to Kentucky would result in multiple lawsuits arising out of the same

operative set of facts. If this case was not transferred, DuPont's lawsuit against MI would continue to be heard by this Court. However, a separate lawsuit against Walker and/or NDT would have to be filed by DuPont in the Western District of Kentucky. Not only would this be wasteful of important judicial resources where the two actions could be heard by the Western District of Kentucky, it would also present the potential for inconsistent judicial outcomes. By transferring this lawsuit to the Kentucky Court, judicial resources would be conserved and the potential for inconsistent judgments would be eliminated.

6. DuPont originally brought this action before this Court because the contract between MI and DuPont contains a provision whereby MI consented and submitted exclusively to the jurisdiction and service of process of the courts of the State of Delaware or the courts of the United States located in Delaware. With DuPont's discovery of NDT's involvement in the inspection of the Louisville plant, which occurred only after filing this action, DuPont believes that NDT is a necessary party to this case. By its consent herein, MI has agreed to waive the Delaware selection provision of its contract with DuPont.

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E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company

Dated: March 20, 2008

It is hereby ORDERED this ____ day of _____ that:

1. The parties' Joint Stipulation to Transfer is hereby GRANTED, and
2. The above-captioned matter is hereby TRANSFERRED to the United States

District Court for the Western District of Kentucky (Louisville Division).

The Honorable Sue L. Robinson
United States District Court Judge

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